

THE CAMPAIGN OPENS.

The campaign upon which we are just entering in this state may well be regarded as the most important ever undertaken by any party in any state since the foundation of the republic. Kansas is the pioneer in the impending social and economic revolution. The People's party had its origin here, and here it achieved its first substantial victory. The spirit which has inspired the movement elsewhere has gone out from Kansas, and future and lasting success in other states and in the nation depends upon the continuance of success here. Kansas must lose no ground in the contest of 1894. She must take no backward step. The influence of a retrograde movement here would unavoidably prove disastrous elsewhere. This fact is as apparent to our political adversaries as it is to us. They realize that the growth of our party can only be arrested by striking at the source of its inspiration, and all the powers of plutocracy, the combined machinery of corporations, trusts and national banks will be concentrated against us in this campaign. The republican party will not lack either money or speakers or other instrumentalities for the conduct of the most aggressive campaign ever waged against a political adversary, and past experience has demonstrated that it will have no scruples respecting the means it will employ to achieve success. In the face of these facts it becomes us to consider, while yet on the threshold of the impending contest, what the necessities of the hour demand of each individual, and of the party as a whole throughout the state.

(1) Individually the first demand is self-sacrifice. No personal ambition or aspiration should stand in the way of party success. The best men should be put forward everywhere as the representatives and standard-bearers of the party, and any considerable opposition to any candidate for political preferment should be sufficient reason for that candidate to voluntarily stand aside and leave the track clear to one upon whom all can unite. An unwillingness to make this personal sacrifice should in itself be considered sufficient to render such candidate unworthy of support. In a contest like this, the success of measures and not of men is the important thing. The best of men must be regarded only as the instruments by which the ends in view are to be attained; and it matters not, therefore, what may become of individuals if the measures upon which depend the prosperity and happiness of the people and the establishment of free institutions shall prevail. A comprehension of, and due regard for these facts is the first essential to any success that shall be real and beneficial.

(2) There is a disposition manifested in some of the senatorial districts now represented by Populists in the state legislature to nominate the incumbents to other positions. Whether such nominations are sought by state senators or not, such a thing should not be thought of for a mo-

ment. The man who accepted that position two years ago accepted it for the term, and the burden of electing his successor before that term expires should not be thrown upon the party at this time. The senate is ours, and it should remain so without the necessity of another contest to insure it. We are not now discussing the merit of our state senators, nor calling in question their qualifications for other positions. They have, in fact, been weighed in the balance and found not wanting. They may have the best of claims for advancement, and at another time it will afford us pleasure to favor their promotion. Now, however, we must hold what we have and concentrate our efforts to secure whatever else we need. State senators should exhibit the spirit of self-sacrifice which has been before referred to and which is incumbent upon every patriotic citizen, and decline to be candidates for any other office until the expiration of the term for which they were elected. By so doing the people will be more certain of securing a majority in the lower house and thereby insuring needed legislation which will certainly be blocked again if republicans have a majority in either house. There must be no failure this year to gain control of the legislature, and the supreme importance of this should not be overlooked through undue attention to petty county offices which are insignificant in comparison.

The state ticket of course, is important, and its importance will not fail to be appreciated. It will be a sorry day for the people of Kansas should the administration of state affairs and the machinery of election returns ever again fall into the hands of a party that, aside from its hypocrisy and dishonesty in the conduct of public affairs, was successful in stealing the state election in 1890 and failed in stealing that of 1892 only through the watchfulness of the chairman of our state central committee and those entrusted by him with that duty. With the power in the hands of such a party the will of the people can never be certain of free expression in whatever direction they may desire to exercise it.

But, important as is the election of a legislature and a state ticket, there is one office that must be regarded as really more important than all others. We are living to-day under a judicial oligarchy. It matters not what is gained in the way of legislation so long as a republican corporation lawyer sits upon the bench with power to declare every law enacted unconstitutional, and to subordinate every individual right to the interests of corporate and capitalistic greed. We have witnessed enough of court autocracy recently to indicate the importance of administering it a proper rebuke on a final appeal to the people. It is full time to undertake the determination of the question whether this is ever again to be a government of the people, and there will never be a better time to begin this work than in the election of a justice of the supreme court this year in Kansas.

A very cursory review of the politi-

cal situation thus exhibits the magnitude of the work to be accomplished and the opposing forces to be encountered. The result rests with the people of the state. Victory can only be attained by much personal sacrifice and hard work. The duty resting upon one individual cannot be shifted to the shoulders of another. Each must resolve to do his part and to do it well. The educational work comes first, and in this the distribution of literature is of more importance than all else. Public meetings have their effect, but many can be reached by a book or a paper who would never attend a meeting at all. Let no agency be neglected, and let the work begin at once and never cease until the last vote is counted in November.

JUDICIAL DESPOTISM.

Omaha dispatches of April 24 announce the fine and imprisonment of Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, for alleged contempt of court. These dispatches say:

The alleged offenses committed by Mr. Rosewater was in allowing to be printed in the Bee a local article in which it was stated that there was evidently some partiality shown to certain criminals in the district court, as of two men caught robbing a railroad depot, the poor man was sentenced to prison and the son of wealthy parents was given his liberty without the case coming to trial. The facts in the case were not denied, but Judge C. S. Scott, who had dismissed the case in question, felt aggrieved at the word "pull" used in the article and had the reporter who wrote the matter brought before him for contempt. After a disgraceful scene in court the reporter was sent up for thirty days, and then Judge Scott concluded to arraign the editor of the paper on the same charge.

The man who does not have contempt for a court like that of Judge Scott deserves to be fined and imprisoned, but the fine and imprisonment in this instance is visited upon those who seem to have a proper conception of the character of the court. Talk of the despotism of the Czar of Russia! There is not a greater despotism on earth to-day than our American judiciary. It not only sits in judgment upon the rights of the American people but it manufactures the laws by which they shall be judged. It assumes to be above criticism and presumes to establish a censorship over the press. This is but one of the incidents showing the direction in which we are drifting, and still men who would feel insulted were it insinuated that they are not possessed of ordinary intelligence will sit meekly down and witness one encroachment upon the liberties of the people after another until they are completely enslaved, and yet insist that everything is all right and that this is the grandest government on the face of the earth. At the Chicago anti-trust convention, Editor Rosewater was quite indignant when some of the delegates questioned the integrity of the courts and pointed out some of their acts of tyranny. It would be interesting to know his opinion upon this subject now.

THE REPUBLICAN MONEY PLANK.

The Capital and the Atchison Champion are pretending to discuss the stereotyped money plank of re-

publican platforms. The Capital of April 25 says:

The Atchison Champion gives up two columns of its valuable editorial page to explanations of the financial plank in the Hon. Case Broderick's new financial platform. The plank is the Minneapolis plank verbatim with the following extraordinary words added: "And we mean what we say." The question in the First district now seems to be just what do we mean when we say that we mean what we say.

The Capital here inadvertently states an important truth. When the republicans of the first district quote the financial plank of the Minneapolis platform and declare that it means what it says, the question at once occurs, what does it say? It does not say anything. It was never designed to say anything. It was especially designed not to say anything. It was built in such a way as to permit the politicians to put such a construction upon it as the sentiment of any locality might require. The Capital is right; "the question in the First district seems to be just what do we mean when we say that we mean what we say," and that question applies as well elsewhere as in the First district when speaking of republican platforms.

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